Difficulties in Exploration Programme by Private and Foreign Companies

1065. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether oil exploration programme with the participation of foreign and private firms is facing serious problems;

(b) whether any foreign firm which have been awarded contracts have backed out from signing the deal;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) its likely impact on the oil exploration programme in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Under the Fourth Round of bidding, contracts with two foreign bidders could not be finalised as they had put forward unacceptable conditions.

(d) There will not be any impact on the oil exploration programme in the country.

Railway Zones

1066. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to divide the country into 13 Railway Zones; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the additional expenditure to be incurred as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b) A study group constituted for examining the existing geographical distribution of zones and divisions in the wake of Project Uniguage and the construction of Konkan Railway, has suggested a need for its rationalisation. This exercise may also entail the creation of some new zones and divisions.

Further processing for formulation of proposals and other related matters is being undertaken.

सुपर बाजार की शाखाओं में सार्वजनिक फोन सुविधाएं

1067. **श्री कनकसिंह मोहनसिंह मंगरौला:** क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने वर्ष 1995-96 के दौरान दिल्ली में सुपर बाजार की सभी शाखाओं में सार्वजनिक टेलीफोन की सुविधा उपलब्ध कराने का निर्णय किया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) क्या सुपर बाजार के महाप्रबंधक ने सरकार को टेलीफोन की कमी से हो रही असुविधा के संबंध में कोई अभ्यावेदन प्रस्तुत किया है;

(घ) यदि हां, तो इस पर सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है; और

(ङ) उपरोक्त अवधि के दौरान सुपर बाजार में शाखा-वार कितने सार्वजनिक टेलीफोन उपलब्ध कराए जाने की संभावना है?

संचार मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री सुखराम): (क) से (ङ) सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और सभा पटल पर रख दी जाएगी।

LPG Connections Under Ministerial Quota

1068. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications for LPG connections pending with Government under Minister's Quota; and

(b) the number of connections which have been sanctioned during 1994-95 and target fixed for allotment of LPG connections during 1995-96 out of Minister's quota?